

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1145
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
BAN ON RECRUITMENT OF NURSES BY BRITAIN
Manoj Dr. K.S.;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether United Kingdom has enforced a ban on recruitment of nurses from outside the European Union;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether India is worst hit since the maximum number of nurses in Britain are recruited from the country;
- (d) If so, whether the Union Government has taken up this issue with the U.K. Government; and
- (e) If so, the response of the British Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (e) : No Sir. The United Kingdom has not enforced a ban on recruitment of nurses from outside the European Union. However, on July 3, 2006, the Department of Health, UK removed `general nurses` from the `Skills Shortage Occupations List` of the UK Home Office. The change in regulation does not affect advanced and senior nurse grades in certain specialities. The change will make no difference to nurses currently working in the UK.

The change in the regulation does not stop UK employers from undertaking international recruitment of nurses. They have to demonstrate that they cannot fill a post with a UK or European Economic Area (EEA) applicant first. The new regulations are likely to come into effect on August 14, 2006. Any likely impact on international recruitment is not yet known.